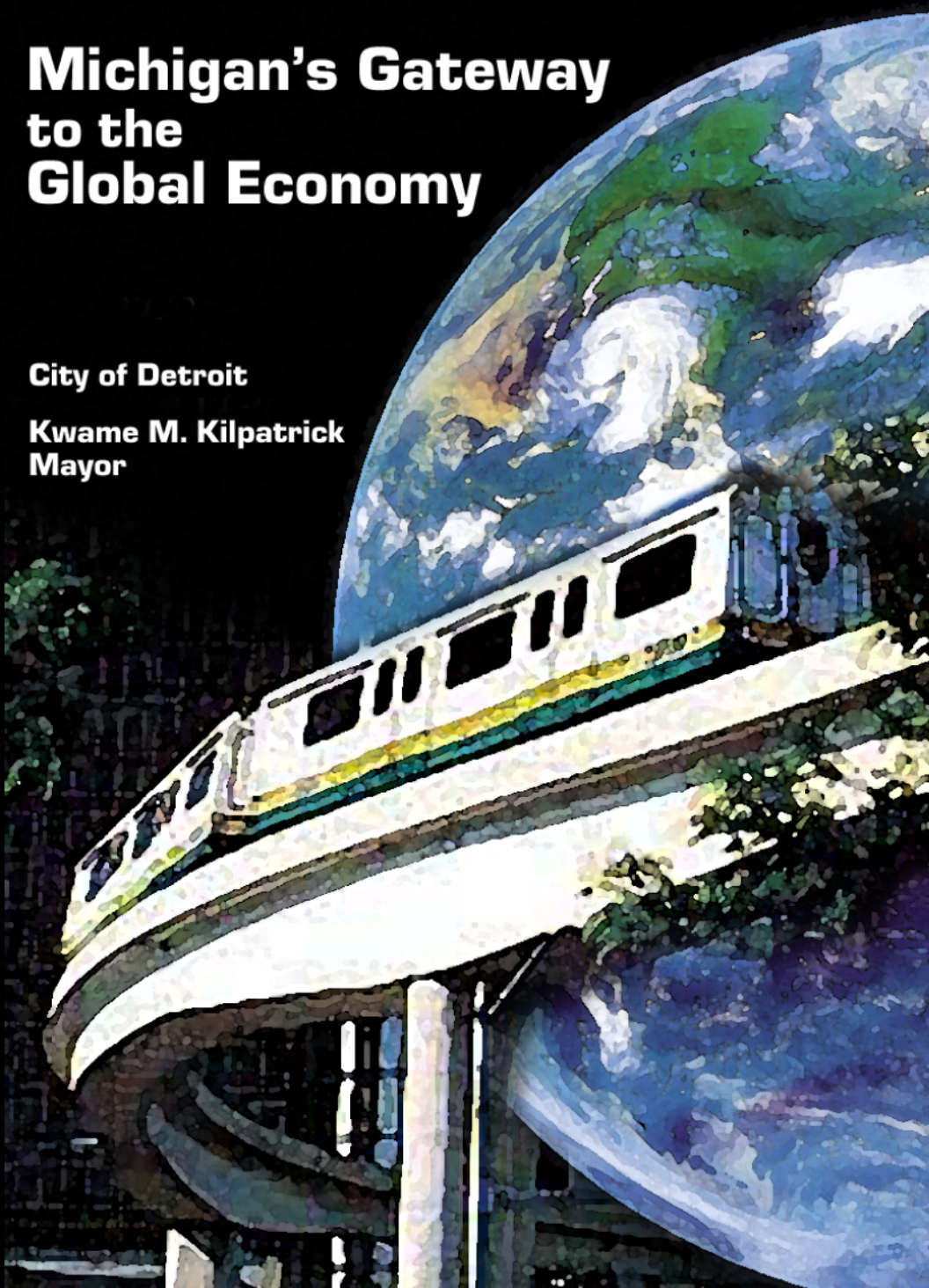


DETROIT'S URBAN AGENDA

Michigan's Gateway to the Global Economy

City of Detroit

**Kwame M. Kilpatrick
Mayor**



Dear Friends:

The City of Detroit recognizes the substantial responsibility it bears in the economic and cultural well being of the State of Michigan. Citizens look to Detroit for a diverse array of cultural activities, traveling to the city from across the state to experience major events such as the Motown musical experience, the North

American International Auto Show, and in 2006, the National Football League's Super Bowl. The City also takes great pride in distinguished arts and cultural institutions such as the Opera House, the Detroit Institute of Arts, and the Detroit Zoo, which attract even more of Michigan's citizens to our great city. Detroit offers an abundance of enriching, family-oriented opportunities, and the City will continue to work diligently to improve the quality of life not only for its citizens but for the entire state of Michigan as well.

Detroit also plays an integral role in the state's economic prosperity. Home to a broad variety of businesses and industries, the city is a vital source of economic activity for the state of Michigan; it currently ranks tenth out of the top 100 U.S. metro economies. Our ports, bridges, and international border with Canada all provide the state with an infinite number of opportunities for developing and nurturing ties to the global business community at unprecedented levels. As technology and innovation continue to drive the economy to new heights of global expansion, it will be even more crucial for the state of Michigan to invest in Detroit's untapped economic potential.

We fully understand that the state is widely impacted by Detroit's successes and failures. The City of Detroit is committed to creating a revitalized urban environment that will not only attract families to communities, but also bring new business to our economy. However, we must

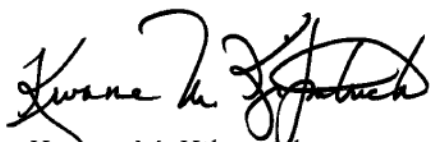


first address critical issues such as access to health care, inadequate transportation, and educational barriers that are hindering the progress of the city.

Detroit's Urban Agenda is intended to serve as a framework for improving the quality of life for all citizens in urban communities. By creating partnerships with state and local governments, businesses, community organizations, and citizens, the City of Detroit seeks to cooperatively address the issues raised in our agenda.

We look forward to partnering with the next Governor of the state of Michigan to help foster new progress and prosperity in the City of Detroit.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kwame M. Kilpatrick". The signature is fluid and stylized, with the first name "Kwame" being more prominent and the last name "Kilpatrick" written in a cursive script.

Kwame M. Kilpatrick
Mayor

DEVELOPING AN URBAN AGENDA

HOMELAND SECURITY



ANTI-TERRORISM MEASURES AND CONTINUED SERVICE DELIVERY

Following the September 11 terrorist attacks on New York and Washington, D.C., local governments have become more focused on homeland security. Cities now carry the responsibility of protecting economic assets, historical monuments, and critical infrastructure. Local governments must make an effort to detect, prevent, and respond to terrorism without depleting vital resources or infringing upon citizens' rights. City governments should build and maintain partnerships with a diverse population throughout the city, the region, and the state to emphasize that people of all ethnic backgrounds make vital contributions to American society. The violation of civil rights, whether through racial, ethnic or other biased-based profiling, will not be tolerated in the name of anti-terrorism, homeland security or any other justification.

Efforts to protect those who live, work, and visit cities from future acts of terrorism need not be done at the expense of effective, day-to-day service provision. Nor does it require that cities invest millions of dollars for technology and equipment that will only be used in the event of an attack. Current technology infrastructures, communication systems, and business processes must be used to detect, prevent and/or respond to terrorism and other critical incidents.

TRANSPORTATION



TRANSPORTATION FOR WORKERS

Transportation is of utmost importance to the Detroit Department of Employment and Training, where the Michigan Works! Agency is charged with moving welfare recipients into meaningful, life-sustaining employment. One of the primary impediments to the department's efforts is a lack of effective public transportation. Detroit citizens who do not have access to a car need a viable way to travel to jobs throughout the city and in the suburbs. While it is possible to provide public transportation vouchers for newly employed workers, transit in Michigan is neither widely accessible nor frequent enough.

Several programs give eligible families grant money to be used for a down payment on a car or for auto repairs. These programs also often require recipients to take classes in financial management and driver education. The most successful worker transportation programs occur at the community level, where citizens repair and eventually purchase state-owned vehicles at minimal cost.

DARTA

The time has come for a transit revolution in southeastern Michigan — we must agree that an effective transportation infrastructure, and the funding for such a system, requires a regional solution. Creating a southeastern Michigan public transportation network under a new Detroit Area Regional Transportation Authority (DARTA) remains a top priority, and is the first step in making transportation available to all citizens. A coordinated, regional approach to transit is essential to both urban areas and the suburbs. An integrated regional transportation system will bring jobs and workers closer together and increase prosperity for the entire region.

EDUCATION



MAYOR'S TIME

Most juvenile crime is conducted between the hours of 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. During that time, many children do not have any adult supervision. The new Mayor's Time initiative provides structured after-school programs to provide our youth with cultural, academic and civic activities designed to educate and enrich their development as young citizens. State and federal funding needs to be greatly expanded to ensure that after-school programming is available for all our youth.

SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION

Detroit, like many urban communities, has aging school buildings that have not been adequately maintained. Some schools may even pose potential health hazards to their students due to mold infestation. School renovation and new construction are urgent priorities for improving the educational environment for our children.

By improving the physical condition of our schools, we will provide a safe haven in the community for all citizens to utilize. These facilities may also be used for such community outreach programs such as health care clinics, Meals on Wheels food service, neighborhood meeting centers, and senior programming.

STATE SCHOOL BOARD CONFIGURATION

Schools are only successful when parents are involved. Citizens must have an elected board so that they can feel empowered. Short-term changes to the current structure must be made. The Mayor should appoint the Board and the CEO. The long-term goal is to move to a totally elected body.

LIFELONG EDUCATION

All children must be educated from their early childhood years via a combination of preschool programming and at-home support so they can enter the public school system ready to learn. In turn, all public schools must equip children with the skills needed to earn a living. Following a public school education, programs must exist that allow people to continue to learn, supplement their skills, and adapt to the changing job market.

PRESCHOOL EDUCATION

Preschool programs should be available for all 3- and 4-year-old children so they can gain the skills necessary for learning when they begin kindergarten. Head Start is one program that has proven successful and needs to be expanded so that all children are equipped with the skills they need by the time they reach kindergarten.

CIVIC EDUCATION

Students must have a basic knowledge of how city, state and federal governments work. Moreover, legislators and educators should work together to establish school programs that encourage American youth to become responsible citizens. Abysmal voter participation rates and little knowledge of American government and public affairs no doubt discourage citizen participation in the democratic process. Through courses such as United States history, government, and current affairs, and by promoting community involvement, educators can instill an ethic of civic engagement and participation in their students.

UNIVERSAL AVAILABILITY OF COMPUTERS/TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Residents of urban centers lag behind other communities in information technology preparedness. All city residences should have the capacity to connect to the Internet, and access to telecommunications services must be made affordable for all households. Libraries must be utilized as resource centers in neighborhoods. High-tech “smart zones” need to be expanded to more residential areas.

In addition, all schools should have access to high-speed Internet connections. The city needs to continue to build its infrastructure in order to ready the city for future technology investments. This issue was raised during the broadband debate but needs to be expanded.

HEALTH CARE



HEALTH SERVICE CORPS

More than 42 million Americans do not have health care coverage or access to primary or preventive health care. One potential cost-efficient approach to meeting citizens' health care needs is to draw upon the talents of the qualified medical community. By enlisting the help of medical, nursing, and allied health students, as well as retired doctors and nurses in a Health Service Corps, states can provide primary and preventive health care to the uninsured at little or no cost to taxpayers.

Colleges and universities could provide course credits to encourage university students' participation in the program; practicing medical professionals could receive continuing education credits for their involvement.

EXPANSION OF MEDICAID WAIVER

The Medicaid Waiver is a comprehensive, in-home service program designed for people who are medically eligible for placement in a nursing care facility. Sometimes individuals who qualify for the Medicaid Waiver are denied services because there are no open slots in community programs that administer home care. The state of Michigan should expand the Medicaid Waiver program to ensure that the needs of all citizens who qualify are met.

ELDERLY CARE/NURSING HOMES

Thousands of low-income, aging citizens live in urban centers. Elderly citizens who need care, whether at their residences or in nursing homes, are a major concern for urban communities. How to pay for their care in an era of shrinking Medicaid resources is of even greater concern. Cities must ensure that seniors have an adequate standard of living, which should include equal opportunities for employment and housing, access to mental and physical health services, access to social services, in-home assistance for independent living, and institutional care if needed.

INDIGENT CARE

Many Michigan citizens are caught in the middle - they cannot afford the high costs of health care but do not qualify for Medicaid. The state should work to provide indigent citizens access to health care by expanding the availability of health insurance coverage through incremental reforms; by increasing the enrollment of eligible individuals in existing public insurance programs; and by compensating health care facilities that treat patients without pay.

SOCIAL AND FAMILY POLICY



EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT

Many workers cannot make ends meet because their jobs simply do not pay enough. Low wages prevent employees from achieving a decent standard of living for their families. The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) addresses this problem by supplementing low wage earners through a refundable tax credit.

States have enacted their own versions of the federal EITC, implementing both refundable and non-refundable tax credits. The EITC is the single most successful anti-poverty program in the U.S., having moved more than 4.7 million families above the poverty line since its inception in 1975. It has also garnered widespread support across party lines because it boosts the earnings of low-income families while promoting a strong work ethic.

INDIVIDUAL DEVELOPMENT ACCOUNTS

Low-income Americans have few personal assets and have reduced opportunities to become prosperous. This sobering fact is often overlooked when discussing the widening gap between the rich and the poor. Setting up Individual Development Accounts (IDAs) is one way to help low-income families accumulate wealth and prosper. Deposits made by IDA participants are matched by funds from public or private sources at a rate set by the sponsoring financial institution. Matching funds can range from fifty cents to five dollars for every dollar deposited. Financial literacy classes can be offered in conjunction with IDAs to help participants build assets and attain financial independence.

CHILD SUPPORT SYSTEM

Parents should strictly adhere to child support laws and should be encouraged to take an active emotional role in the lives of their children. A mechanism needs to be put in place to ensure that children of responsible, non-custodial parents who pay child support receive the money due to them.

CHILD CARE REPORT CARDS

Children in day care centers must be assured of quality care, and parents need access to reliable information that evaluates the daily care their child receives. State and local governments that subsidize child care facilities should have strict rules of accountability for child care providers. Mandatory report cards for child care centers are one way to promote high quality. A uniform child care center report card can provide parents with information about health and safety conditions, child/staff ratios, training and education of staff, programs for child development, accreditation status, and the condition of physical facilities.

JOB TRAINING PROGRAMS

Job training is critical to keeping a higher percentage of the urban workforce employed in jobs where people are needed most. Funding for job-training programs should be allocated so that the individuals who require the most assistance (economically disadvantaged adults, dislocated workers, and at-risk youth) are beneficiaries. These programs should also provide basic skills training and encourage cooperation between government and business. The City of Detroit has supported programs such as Focus: HOPE that have dramatically improved the quality of life for Detroit citizens. We must continue to adequately fund such significant social programs.

PREDATORY LENDING PRACTICES

Financial lending institutions too often exploit racial and ethnic minorities, senior citizens, and low-income individuals through predatory lending practices. By using aggressive sales tactics, charging higher interest rates and fees, and setting unfair repayment terms, lenders unfairly take advantage of people seeking loans. The damaging effects of predatory lending further exacerbate conditions in urban communities. The Michigan Legislature should pass legislation banning predatory lending. We must be proactive and warn our citizens about the dangers of this practice through public education initiatives and financial literacy courses that will prevent citizens from becoming victims of predatory lending.

PROMOTING FINANCIAL LITERACY

Establishing and maintaining good credit is essential for achieving financial independence. A good credit record can improve the quality of life for citizens by helping them to become homeowners, purchase vehicles, save money, and become financially secure. Financial literacy education gives citizens the knowledge and skills necessary to avoid predatory lending, successfully manage their finances, and build good credit. All citizens deserve access to information that will help them make sound financial decisions.

DISCRIMINATORY BUSINESS PRACTICES

Low-income and urban neighborhoods are subject to consumer discrimination by companies that exploit them through outrageous fees and insufficient service. The practice of charging high fees due to crime, theft, and accident rates unfairly targets citizens within these areas. Companies must be responsive to the citizens that they serve and be held accountable to the community, regardless of its geographic or demographic makeup.

LAND AND CONSTRUCTION



BUILDING DEMOLITION

Demolition of non-functional and dangerous buildings in cities must proceed quickly so that land parcels can be redeveloped. The state appropriated \$5 million to the Michigan Department of Management and Budget in 2000 to raze state-owned, tax-reverted properties. Detroit is home to 45,000 such properties. Undoubtedly, other Michigan towns and cities suffer from the same problem. With proper funding, municipalities should be able to tear down deteriorating structures and clean up problem properties, especially around school buildings.

LAND BANK

Tax-delinquent properties can quickly become derelict and add to urban blight and decay. Such properties also cost cities valuable income through tax revenue. The state of Michigan should pass legislation to create local land bank authorities that would hasten the return of tax delinquent properties to local tax rolls. These local authorities would allow communities to have increased control over which properties go into particular land banks. It would also give them the ability to assemble and consolidate properties for redevelopment, enforce liens, and clear land titles more quickly and efficiently.

SPOT BLIGHT CONDEMNATION

Vacant and abandoned buildings are not only dangerous, but they are unsightly and demoralizing to communities as well. Blighted properties reduce surrounding property values and add to other problems of rundown neighborhoods. The state of Michigan should support legislation that gives municipalities the power to target and condemn dilapidated

properties before they reduce surrounding land values and create havens for criminal activity.

ILLEGAL DUMPING

Urban communities have been plagued with people illegally dumping trash throughout the city. Pollution caused by illegal dumping creates health hazards and a dangerous environment for urban citizens.

The Motor City Makeover is a mayoral initiative that involves a community-wide cleanup of trash in our neighborhoods. Once the city has been cleaned through the initiative, a continuing partnership with community residents is necessary to maintain its cleanliness.

Increased enforcement of existing illegal dumping laws is needed. There are approximately 20 environmental enforcement officers statewide, and the state is often forced to rely upon voluntary compliance to make up for lack of enforcement. By increasing the number of enforcement officers, the state can become more proactive in preventing illegal dumping rather than reactive.

COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT AND LAW ENFORCEMENT



AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND LIVABLE NEIGHBORHOODS

Quality, affordable housing is a critical element in stabilizing and improving the lives of urban citizens. A partnership should be encouraged to eliminate substandard housing, expand homeownership opportunities, encourage efforts to preserve and renovate existing housing, provide incentives and rewards to developers for efficient planning, and incorporate private sector investments.

LEAD REMEDIATION

Most Michigan municipalities, especially Detroit, have a large percentage of homes built before 1978, meaning that many houses' walls, trim, and siding were painted using lead-based paint. Detroit has the highest percentage of homes containing lead-based paint in Michigan. Lead-based paint threatens the health of small children who come in contact with the substance, making increased funding for lead remediation a critical health care issue. Moreover, the removal of lead-based paint in older homes will make those properties more attractive to potential homeowners. The state should pass a law that would require a lead-safe certificate to accompany the title of any home built before 1978.

ARTS/CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

Our cultural background is a core component of our existence. Ethnic history and cultural activities contribute to a rich quality of life. When citizens have knowledge and pride about their cultural heritage, they feel a stronger sense of identity within the community. Community centers can better serve both children and adults by hosting more culture-related activities.

There is continuing discussion about enacting a regional arts and cultural tax. This tax could expand opportunities to host major events in Detroit that are enjoyable not only to Michigan citizens but will draw national attention as well. In 2006 Detroit will host the Super Bowl, which will put the city, the region, and the state in the national spotlight.

PARK IMPROVEMENT

Our parks are a significant source of educational and recreational activity for Detroit citizens. Each year, tens of thousands of people visit Detroit parks to take advantage of a wide variety of outdoor activities, such as picnicking, hiking, and swimming. Our parks also serve as important educational tools, providing Detroit citizens with opportunities to learn from a number of nature, farm, and historical centers throughout the metro area. However, due to inadequate funding, many of Detroit's parks and facilities are suffering from poor maintenance. It is imperative that the City of Detroit restore and preserve these gems of natural beauty. State and federal funding is needed for the improvement and proper maintenance of our parks and facilities.

FIGHTING CRIME IN THE DIGITAL AGE/COMSTAT

Crime fighting has entered a new, high-tech era. Community-based crime prevention strategies along with cutting-edge information and communications technology will support proactive, information-driven police programs such as COMSTAT. Sharing information in a coordinated manner at all levels of government will provide more effective service delivery. City, state, and federal officials must harness the latest technology to improve delivery services that will make government more responsive to the people that it serves.

WATER AND SEWER INFRASTRUCTURE

Many urban centers have water and sewer systems that are more than a half-century old. The systems' lifespans have expired and are now in dire need of repair. Most Michigan urban centers are having difficulties obtaining the funding to reconstruct costly water and sewage systems to comply with federal regulations. Cities should receive increased funding for water and sewer infrastructure improvements.

COMMUNITY-ORIENTED POLICING

Police should continue patrolling and interacting with neighborhood residents on a daily basis. Such a proactive crime prevention approach has worked for communities nationwide, keeping community police officers on the streets and increasing the safety of our citizens. Community policing funds should be increased to expand the number of police officers so that the officers are a visible, active part of the community.

CRIME LAB

Regional labs allow for cost-effective crime fighting. In the year 2000, the Detroit Crime Lab alone handled almost 17,000 cases. Detroit's Crime Lab must be fully funded. This facility serves the entire Southeastern Michigan region, processing and tracking crimes more effectively and efficiently at the local level and expediting the process of apprehending criminals. This crime lab is essential to the community in which it serves and must be fully funded.

RACIAL PROFILING

African-Americans and other ethnic minorities are stopped on our nation's roadways at disproportionately higher rates, leading to higher arrests and incarceration rates. Blatant acts of prejudice and unfair treatment towards minorities by law enforcement officials must be stopped. Studies have shown minorities are also consistently charged with more severe crimes and are given harsher punishments. State officials should pass legislation to collect and analyze accurate data on the problems of racial profiling, punish officials engaging in racial profiling, and require sensitivity training for all law enforcement officers.

BROWNFIELD REDEVELOPMENT/CLEAN MICHIGAN INITIATIVE

Brownfields are environmentally hazardous, formerly industrial sites that must be cleaned up. Priority is given to brownfield sites that are to be redeveloped. Cleanup of these sites is a fundamental component of economic development. Most urban areas are very active in the cleanup process, and have taken advantage of the \$20 million of earmarked funds for the Clean Michigan Initiative to stimulate reinvestment in our cities. So far, \$15 million of the Clean Michigan money has been used; bonding has helped local governments deal with this problem.